

Trustees: Mr. Uche Orji (Chairman), Elder U.K. Eke (Vice Chairman), Dr. Anele Ebizie, Dr. Godswill Okoji, Barrister Sebastian Ibezim, Mazi. Ugochukwu Okoroafor, Mr. Kingsley Agomoh, Mr. Charles Chikezie (Executive Secretary)

September 17, 2025

Fellow Umuahians, and esteemed stakeholders,

Today, I write to you as the newly elected chairman of the FEDT Board of Trustees with a deep sense of responsibility and a clear sense of purpose. We are here not merely to govern Government College Umuahia (GCU), but to steward a living mission—the mission of our school, its students, its faculty, and the many communities that have stood with us through the years. Our path forward is grounded in hope, integrity, and an unwavering commitment to the long-term welfare of all who depend on this Trust.

First and foremost, we affirm our duty to preserve the Deed of Trust and Constitution of the FEDT and to adhere strictly to its provisions. These are not just documents; they are the framework that safeguards our shared values, ensures accountability, and guarantees that the resources entrusted to us are used in ways that honor the trust placed in us by generations of supporters. We will respect its letter and its spirit in every decision, every policy, and every action we undertake.

Second, I extend my deep gratitude and profound respect to the outgoing Board of Trustees, chaired by His Excellency, Dr. Okwesilieze Nwodo, whose pioneering vision laid the very foundations of FEDT, instituting essential standards and crafting the constitution that now guides our work. Their tireless dedication to fund-raising and infrastructure development transformed the landscape of GCU, and their personal sacrifices—through private donations and countless flights to meetings long before virtual platforms existed—showcase a commitment to our mission that transcends ordinary duty. Their consistent consultation with the government of Abia State, and their unwavering efforts in scouting, interviewing, and recruiting teachers, as well as the principal and vice principals from all over the world, have ensured we attract and retain the very best leadership and instruction. Their far-sighted collaborations with institutions overseas to align with global standards demonstrate a commendable drive to position us among peer institutions worldwide. To all who served, their exemplary leadership and steadfast service will continue to inspire us, even as we carry forward their legacy in service of our students at GCU and community.

As we step into this new chapter of FEDT, it is important to address a matter that weighs on our immediate work: communications. There has been a noticeable delay in our communications with stakeholders, especially the GCUOBA family. However, this is not an oversight driven by neglect or complacency. Rather, it is the result of our deliberate onboarding process—an essential period during which we are aligning governance structures, refining processes, and strengthening the foundation upon which all future achievements will be built. This onboarding is not just about preserving the standards of the prior Board for its own sake; it is about learning from the past in order to improve—so that our standards rise, our decisions become more transparent, and our operations are more resilient and future-focused.

Let me be clear: we do not and will not take the responsibility of communication lightly. We recognize that timely, transparent, and thoughtful dialogue with members of GCUOBA and other stakeholders is a core pillar of good governance. It is a trust that must be earned and continually renewed. To that end, the Board will elevate communication to a top priority. We

will keep you informed, listen to your insights, and engage with you as partners in this noble endeavor of restoration and renewal.

This brings me to a central charge of our leadership: restoration and renewal of GCU--the school we all hold dear. Our shared goal is not merely to return to a prior state, but to build a stronger, more vibrant institution—one that honors its history while innovating with courage and compassion. This is a moment to unite—students, faculty, staff, administrators, Trustees, Alumni, and all stakeholders—in a common purpose: to restore excellence, to expand opportunity, and to ensure that the school remains a beacon of learning, character, and service for generations to come.

The path ahead will require collaboration, candor, and a willingness to invest in both people and ideas. In the coming weeks, the Board will reach out with detailed information about the school's current needs. We will outline the practical steps and timelines we envision to address those needs. You will hear from us about priorities in academics, student support, infrastructure, community engagement, and governance—each with clear milestones, responsible leaders, and measurable outcomes. Our aim is to provide you with a transparent road map that demonstrates how we intend to translate vision into action, how we will steward resources responsibly, and how we will measure progress along the way.

To all members of GCUOBA: your voices matter. Your experiences, your networks, and your lifelong commitment to this institution are invaluable assets. We invite you to join hands with us in this restoration effort. Your perspectives will help us identify what works, what can be improved, and what new opportunities we should seize. We count on your constructive engagement, your honest feedback, and your readiness to contribute—whether through student scholarships, mentorship programs, advisory roles, or partnerships that extend beyond the gates of GCU. Together, we can create a future that respects the past, leverages present strengths, and boldly pursues new horizons.

To our broader community of stakeholders: students, parents, faculty, donors, partners, host and neighboring communities, I say this—your trust is our most precious asset, and we will earn it every day. We will be accountable, open to scrutiny, and steadfast in our commitment to the Constitution, to ethical stewardship, and to the highest standards of governance. Our decisions will be guided not by expedience, but by what serves the best interests of the school's mission and the well-being of those who rely on it.

In this season of renewed purpose, I ask each of you to bring your best ideas, your willingness to collaborate, and your shared sense of responsibility to the work ahead. The restoration we pursue is not a solitary endeavor; it is a collective undertaking that calls for a chorus of voices, diverse perspectives, and a culture of mutual respect. Let us move forward with humility, courage, and optimism, confident that our best days lie ahead.

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Let me at this point address the ongoing disagreements that have dominated our different fora for the past months. As an eternal optimist, I strongly believe that there is something providential in this our contemporary growing pain. There is absolutely nothing wrong with disagreements so long as it is fueled by constructive criticism in the best interest of GCU. To those of us that have doubts and misapprehensions, I urge you to give us a chance, and I assure you that this FEDT administration is committed to earning your trust. As the Executive Governor of Abia State, Dr. Alex Otti, has directed us to do, we will work with GCUOBA to find lasting solutions to our contemporary challenges.

As we advance, I commit to you this: the FEDT Board will be transparent in reporting, and steadfast in implementing a coherent plan that aligns with the Trust's constitution and provisions. We will provide regular updates, seek your input, and ensure that your concerns are addressed in a timely and respectful manner. We will work with urgency where needed,

and with diligence where the stakes are high—yet always with the care and deliberation that governance requires.

In closing, let us embrace this moment as an opportunity to recommit to the values that define us as Umuahians: integrity, service, excellence, honor and unity. Let us be the generation of leaders who restore with resolve and build with generosity. Let us stand together—Trustees, Alumni, and all stakeholders—in a shared mission to restore, renew, and elevate this esteemed school for today’s students and for generations to come.

Thank you, and may our collaboration be blessed with clarity of purpose, strength of character, and enduring hope.

In Unum Luceant.

A handwritten signature in purple ink, consisting of a large, stylized loop followed by a horizontal line that tapers off to the right.

Uche Orji
Chairman, FEDT BoT.

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